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PatentPATENT IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Guy Andrew VAZ) Re: Information Disclosure
Serial No.: 09/965,299) Statement
Filed: September 26, 2001) Group: not yet assigned
For: "PROTECTIVE BOOT AND SOLE) Examiner: not yet assigned
STRUCTURE") Our Ref: B-3834DIVofDIV
) 619083-7
) Date: December 5, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicant's duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) before issuing the first Office Action on the merits. We are enclosing herewith a copy of each document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified).

The subject application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/633,955, filed August 7, 2000, which is in turn a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/470,522, filed December 22, 1999.

The documents listed on Form-1449 (modified) include those cited in the Australian Search Report of Singapore Application No. S09804838-2 (6 pages). A copy of the Australian Search Report is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The Applicant believes that this IDS is being submitted before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance. Therefore,



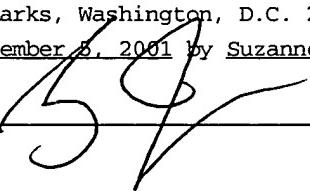
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no official fees should be due; and this IDS should be considered on the merits. If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of the first Office Action on the merits and before the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-0415 \$180.00 (or any other required amount), which is the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c); and this IDS should be fully considered on the merits, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this IDS is being submitted after the issuance of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, then the Commissioner is not authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 12-0415.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the "Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231", on December 5, 2001 by Suzanne Johnston.



Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of Australian Search Report of SG 9804838-2 (6 pages)
Copy of documents listed on Form PTO-1449 (modified)